

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A footwear mold, the footwear mold comprising:
2 a footwear form, wherein the footwear form includes a location mark
3 corresponding to a location of a strap rivet.
- 1 2. The footwear mold of claim 1, wherein the footwear form is an inner
2 portion of the footwear mold.
- 1 3. The footwear mold of claim 2, wherein the footwear mold further
2 comprises:
3 an upper portion and a lower portion, wherein the upper portion and the lower
4 portion substantially encompass the footwear form.
- 1 4. The footwear mold of claim 3, wherein at least the upper portion
2 includes a material inlet.
- 1 5. The footwear mold of claim 3, wherein the footwear form is suspended
2 from the interior of the upper portion.
- 1 6. The footwear mold of claim 1, wherein the location marked extends
2 from the footwear form and is operable to reduce material forming a finished footwear piece
3 at the location of the strap.
- 1 7. The footwear mold of claim 1, wherein the location marked extends
2 into the footwear form and is operable to increase material forming a finished footwear piece
3 at the location of the strap.
- 1 8. The footwear mold of claim 1, wherein the location mark further
2 includes a halo section that roughly corresponds to the size of a rivet head upon expansion of
3 a material forming an expanded footwear piece.
- 1 9. A method for manufacturing a footwear mold, the method comprising:
2 forming a location mark in a footwear form, wherein the footwear form is an
3 inner portion of a three piece mold.

1 10. The method of claim 9, wherein the location mark extends from the
2 footwear form and is operable to reduce material forming a finished footwear piece at the
3 location of the strap.

1 11. The method of claim 9, wherein the location mark extends into the
2 footwear form and is operable to increase material forming a finished footwear piece at the
3 location of the strap.

1 12. The method of claim 9, wherein the location mark includes a halo, and
2 wherein the method further comprises:

3 locating an outer edge of the halo approximately even with a pattern
4 corresponding to an inner wall of a footwear piece.

1 13. The method of claim 12, wherein the outer edge of the halo is set-off
2 approximately one sixteenth inch from an edge of the footwear piece after expansion of the
3 footwear piece.

1 14. A piece of footwear comprising:

2 a sole;

3 an upper portion extending from the sole, wherein the upper portion is adapted to
4 cover the top of a user's foot, and wherein the upper portion includes a rear opening for
5 receiving the user's foot;

6 at least one connector coupled to the upper portion;

7 a strap operably coupled to the upper portion, wherein the strap is configured to be
8 positioned across the rear opening to engage the back of the user's foot;

9 at least one adjustment mechanism that is interactable with the connector and the strap
10 to adjust the position of the strap relative to the back of the user's foot.

1 15. A piece of footwear as in claim 14, wherein the connector comprises a
2 loop that is pivotally coupled to the upper portion.

1 16. A piece of footwear as in claim 15, wherein the adjustment mechanism
2 comprises a strip of material having one end coupled to the strap and a free end that is
3 configured to pass through the loop.

1 17. A piece of footwear as in claim 16, wherein the adjustment mechanism
2 further comprises a coupling arrangement to couple the free end of the strip of material to the
3 strap.

1 18. A piece of footwear as in claim 17, wherein the coupling arrangement
2 comprises a plurality of snaps.

1 19. A piece of footwear as in claim 17, wherein the coupling arrangement
2 comprises a hook and loop fastener material.

1 20. A piece of footwear as in claim 14, wherein the at least one connector
2 comprises a pair of connectors coupled to opposite sides of the rear opening, and wherein the
3 at least one adjustment mechanisms comprises a pair of adjustment mechanisms that are
4 interactable with the pair of connectors.

1 21. A piece of footwear as in claim 14, wherein the strap is pivotally
2 connected to the upper portion.